THE REHEARSAL.

1. The *Review* his *Now it is Plain* upon the *Cuſtom* of *Taunton*, ſhew'd to be *Plainly* otherwiſe.
2. Another *Cuſtom* of *Taunton* more to his Purpoſe, to Prove the *Taunton-Men* to be *High-Church*.
3. A Modeſt *Inquiry* why the *Diſſenters* are ſo *Zealous* to be *Church-Wardens*. And of the *Oath* of a *Church-Warden*.
4. The *Review* puts it upon *Faction*, and to Try the *Strength* of *Parties*. And *Challenges* the *Church-Men* to *Fight* it out.
5. Who is the *Inflamer* in this Caſe.
6. A Wilfull *Prevarication* in the *Review*, to make it be Believ'd that the *Bells* were not Permitted to be *Rung* at *Taunton* upon the *Victory* at *Ramelleis*, tho' *Deſir'd* by the *Diſſenters*.

SATURDAY, *July* 13th 1706.

(1.) *Country-man.* I promis'd you, *Maſter*, laſt time to Help the *Review* in Proving the Men of *Taunton* to be *High-Church*. And becauſe he Inſiſts upon the *Cuſtom* of *Taunton* againſt the *Miniſter* there having the *Nomination* of one of the *Church-Wardens*; which if not ſo, all his *Rhetorick* is *Miſ-Spent*, and his *Arguments* fall to the Ground, which he has brought againſt the Men of *Taunton*, and the *Chancellor* of the *Dioceſs* for Admitting Mr. *Oſmonton*, who was Nominated as *One* of the *Church-Wardens* by Mr. *Gale* the *Miniſter*, who, the *Review* ſays had no *Manner of Pretence*; therefore to make this ſure, he ſays, *Now it is Plain, it had been otherwiſe Determin'd here by the Ancient Uſage of the Place*, that is, That the *Miniſter* had not the Choice of *One* of the *Church-Wardens*: And his ſaying thus *Poſitivly*, *Now it is Plain*, is all the *Proof* he brings. For what need *Proof*, when a thing is *Plain*! But it was not ſo *Plain* it ſeems to Mr. *Gale*, for the *Review* Confeſſes in the very next Words, That *however Mr. GALE Inſiſted upon his Claim.* And moreover that his *Claim* was Allow'd by the *Chancellor* in the *Conſiſtory*. And it Appears not that *Judgment* was given againſt his *Claim* in *Weſtminſter-Hall*, or that the *Sentence* of the *Court* proceeded upon that *Point*. For I know not how a *Court* in *Weſtminſter-Hall* cou'd Determin of the *Couſtom* of *Taunton*, without an *Inquiry* of the Men of *Taunton*. So that Mr. *Review* his *Now it is Plain*, ſeems to be *Plainly* otherwiſe, as my *Letter* ſays it is, and that the former *Miniſters* there have *Enjoy'd* and *Excercis'd* this *Right*, without any *Oppoſition*, except from the *Diſſenters*.

(2.) But, as I ſaid, ſince Mr. *Review* do's Inſiſt upon this *Cuſtom* of *Taunton*, I will tell him of another *Cuſtom* there, which will ſhew the *Taunton Men* to be more *High-Church* than I believe he will be willing to hear. Thus then ſays my *Letter*, That *it hath been an Ancient CUSTOM in the Pariſh of St. MARY MAGDALENE in TAUNTON, to Chooſe thoſe two Perſons to be CHURCHWARDENS who have been CONSTABLES and PORT-REEVS Succeſſivly the two Years laſt paſt: The third CHURCH-WARDEN being Nam'd by the MINISTER, if he is Preſent, if not, by the Pariſhoners, who always Allow the MINISTER this Right, Which the ſeveral MINISTERS have Exercis'd without any Oppoſition except from the DISSENTERS, who are far from having the Majority of Votes in ſuch Elections, however they came to ſucceed in this Conteſted one. The Office is a Place of much Trouble. And I never knew any Perſon ſollicito be Elected to that Office but Right DISSENTERS, out of a Peeviſh Factious Deſign to Break through that Ancient CUSTOM of Electing the laſt Years PORT-REEVS, which hath ſo long prevail'd in that Pariſh— But this is all the WHIGGS can do here. The Government is out of their Hands, and ſecur'd in ſuch as will never Admit them to Share in it. This is the Grievous Mortification, they Can't be MAYORS or ALDERMEN, CONSABLES or PORT-REEVS. This makes them ſo Abſur'd as to Solicit to be Elected WARDENS of a CHURCH they are not MEMBERS of; And for Occaſion, to ſerve the Intereſt of that Party, will SWEAR to Maintain that CHURCH which they wilfully Undermine.*

(3.) *Rehearſal.* The *Review* we are upon of the 18th *June* laſt, Vol. 3. N. 73. ſays, That *the Office of CHURCH-WARDEN is a Place of ſo much Trouble and Charge, and, if honeſtly Executed, of ſo little Advantage, that few People are Sollicitous to be nam'd to the Employment.* But the Reaſon he gives why the *Diſſenters* were ſo *Solicitous* at this time, is, That this *Office* had been *Engroſs'd* by the *Party*, as he calls the *Church*. What ſay you to that, *Country-man?* ſince you have taken upon you to *Anſwer* him, by the help of your *Letter*.

Country-m.

Country-m. My *Letter* gives you the true Reaſon. It is to Thruſt themſelves into *Employment*, and be *Medling*! Why elſe wou'd they *Grudge* the *Church* an *Office* which is *Trouble* and *Charge*! Let any *Engroſs* ſuch *Employments* for me. Surely I ſhou'd not *Strive* for them, and go to *Law* for them, if I had not ſome other *Deſign*!

I can Remember, that one of their Great *Arguments* againſt the *Occaſional Bill* was, their being made Lyable to theſe *Offices* of *Burden*, to which their *Tender Conſciences* cou'd not ſubmit, and that they cou'd not be *Excus'd* without a *Fine*, or even tho' they ſhou'd *Fine*. This was *Aggravated* as a mighty *Perſecution!* And now they will not be *Excus'd* from ſuch *Offices*, but *Fight* and go to *Law* for them! This ſhews their true *Meaning!* And conſidering the *Oath* of a *Church-Warden*, there is not ſuch Another *Office* in the *Kingdom* to make the *Conſcience* of a *Diſſenter* CECK, as this is! They muſt *Swear* to be *True* to the *Church* and her *Intereſt!* To Provide all things neceſſary for the *Keeping* up and *Supporting* of what they call *Superſtition* and *Idolatry*! *Popery*! and *Heatheniſm*! According to Mr. *De Laun* and Mr. *De Foe*. Nay they muſt *Swear* too, as the *Oath* us'd to Run, to *Preſent* all their fellow *Diſſenters*, and thoſe who keep not Conſtantly to the *Church*; yet they now bring *Actions*, and *Mandamuſes* againſt thoſe who wou'd *Excuſe* them from theſe *Oaths*! And they Cry *Liberty* and *Property!* And all the *Laws* in *England* are *Diſſolv'd*, unleſs they have free *Liberty* to *Forſwear* themſelves! O! *Tender Conſcience*! Thou'rt a *Mighty Man*! And in how many *Shapes* do'ſt thou Appear! It is all Comprehended in one *Word*, that is, *POWER*! And whatever Hinders them from that, is againſt their *Conſcience*!

Rehearſ. Well done, *Country-man.* I believe all the *Reviews* in *England* will not be able to anſwer thee. How *Prepoſterous* wou'd the *Diſſenters* think it, if we ſhou'd Thruſt our ſelves in to be *Wardens* in their *Congregations*? Why then ſhou'd they be *Church-Wardens* with us? Is it becauſe they are the beſt *Friends* to the *Church*, and wou'd *Support* and *Defend* the *Church*, and be *Content* to keep *Themſelves* ſtill *Undermoſt*! As *Obſervators* and *Reviews* wou'd make us believe. *Credat Judæus Apella*! I pray *God* preſerve the *Church* from all her *Enemies*. But eſpecially from her *Falſe-Friends*.

(4) But, *Country-man*, the *Review* tells us Plainly, That this *Struggle* at *Taunton*, and the End for which he brings it in, was *Faction*. That is the *Turn* he gives it, and the *Uſe* he makes of it. He ſays, That by this *not only the Juſtice of the Cauſe, but the Strength of Parties——has been fully Try'd and the High-Church Gentlemen have had the Mortification*, &c. ſee how he *Triumphs* with the *Diſſenters* againſt the *Church!* And *Blows* Every *Coal* of *Diviſion*. And to *Provoke*, the more, he gives a downright *Challenge*, and ſays, *this High-Party were ever better at Swearing than Fighting.* Where are now all his *Declamations* for *Peace* and *Union*, and to the *Diſſenters* to be *Content*! He *Watches* every *Occaſion* he can find throughout *England* to ſet them together by the Ears, and Inflame the Reckoning!

(5.) *Country-m.* I Expect, *Maſter*, That you will be Call'd the *Inflamer* for this. For he will ſay, what had you to do to *Anſwer* him? If you had held your Peace, there had been no *Conteſt* about this matter of *Taunton!*

Rehearſ. That is all the way that I ever was an *Inflamer*, by *Anſwering* the *Scandals* thrown by theſe Men upon the *Church* and the *Government*. And they were long *Thrown* before I *Began*.

(6.) But, *Country-Man*, I want your *Anſwer* now, from your Men at *Taunton*, concerning the *Bells* and the *Bonefires*. The *Review* gives this as a Demonſtration of their *Prejudice* to the D. of *Marlborough*, that they *Refus'd* to *Rejoyce* for his late Great *Victory* at *Ramelleis*, and wou'd not ſuffer their *Bells* to be *Rung*, tho' the *Diſſenters* Deſir'd it, and Preſs'd it.

Country-m. It is not only *Falſe*, but I will ſhew you that he *Knew* it to be ſo. The News of that *Victory* came to *Taunton* on *Saturday* the 18th of *May*. And immediatly the *Mayor* Order'd the *Bells* to be *Rung*, and they did *Ring* till it was late. They had the *Confirmation* of this *News* on *Monday* the 20th. And the *Bells* were *Rung*, and there were publick *Rejoycings* again. Now the *Review* takes no notice of this, but ſets his *Mark* upon another Day, *Thurſday* the 23 of *May*, when as he ſays, the *Confirmation* of that *Victory* came, with the taking of ſome *Towns*. He wou'd not ſay, when the News of the *Victory* came, for he *Knew* the *Bells* did *Ring* that Day. Therefore to make *Sure*, and that he ſhou'd not be *Catch'd* in a *Falſhood*, he put it, when the *Confirmation* Came. But this was only a ſecond *Confirmation*. And there was no need of *Ringing* for that. But whoever Reads the *Review* and believes it, muſt think, That there was no *Ringing* of *Bells* at *Taunton* for that *Victory*. And it is worded thus *Artificially* on Purpoſe, that it might be ſo Believ'd. If you had been Guilty of ſuch a *Prevarication*, Maſter, you wou'd have had ſome *Hard* Words given you. It is ſo much worſe than a common *Falſity*, that it is *Studying* to *Deceive!* And then to Ground ſo *Grievous* an *Accuſation* upon it, as to Render the *Mayor* and *Magiſtracy* and the *Church Men* of *Taunton* Guilty hereby of *Diſaffection* to her *Majeſty*, to the D. of *Marlborough*, and the *Welfare* of the *Nation*! But I have more yet to Say.

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London, Printed and Sold by the Bookſellers of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, 1706.